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2675

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Mark A. DARTY

Group Art Unit: 2675

Application No.: 09/667,807

Examiner: F. Alphonse

Filed: September 22, 2000

Docket No.: 104175

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR SUBJECTING AN ELEMENT TO AN  
ELECTRICAL FIELD

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

**RECEIVED**

AUG 19 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the April 14, 2004 Office Action, and further to the May 11, 2004 personal interview with Examiner Alphonse and Primary Examiner Chow, the period for reply being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Alphonse and Primary Examiner Chow in the May 11, 2004 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-20, 23-25 and 36-87 are pending in this application.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 12-18, 70-72 and 76 include allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 19, 20, 23-25, 36, 37, 42, 46-51, 54-69, 73-75, 78, 79 and 81-87 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,025,896 to

Hattori et al. (hereinafter "Hattori"); claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,287 to Palmer et al. (hereinafter "Palmer"); claims 52 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,126,854 to Sheridan (hereinafter "Sheridon"); and claims 38-41, 43-45, 77 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,300,932 to Albert (hereinafter "Albert"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

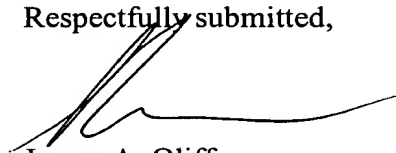
As asserted by Applicant's representative, and agreed to by Examiners Alphonse and Chow at the May 11, 2004 personal interview, Hattori, alone or in combination with Palmer, Sheridan or Albert, fails to disclose or suggest all the features of at least independent claims 1, 23, 75 and 84-87, and dependent claim 24. At the May 11, 2004 personal interview, Examiners Alphonse and Chow agreed to withdraw the April 16, 2004 Office Action and issue another Patent Office communication by May 31, 2004. (See, for example, the attached Interview Summary.)

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

George P. Simion  
Registration No. 47,089

JAO:GPS/hs

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time  
May 11, 2004 Interview Summary

Date: August 16, 2004

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**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
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